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Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

December 29, 2011

To: Local Enforcement Agencies who implement the Medical Waste Management Program

Subject: Assembly Bill (AB) 762, an Act to Amend California Health and Safety Code (HSC), Section 118275, Medical Waste; Effective January 1, 2012

On September 6, 2011, the Governor signed AB 762, an act that amends California Health and Safety Code, Section 118275 of the Medical Waste Management Act. The amendment takes effect January 1, 2012.

The act authorizes the consolidation into a common container, which may be reusable, sharps waste, as defined in HSC, Section 117755, and pharmaceutical wastes, as defined in HSC, Section 117747, provided that the consolidated waste is treated pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of HSC, Section 118215 (a permitted medical waste incineration treatment facility or an approved extremely high temperature alternative treatment technology) and the container meets the requirements of HSC, Section 118285 (sharps waste). The container shall be labeled with the biohazardous waste symbol and the words "HIGH HEAT ONLY," "INCINERATION," or other label approved by the department on the lid and on the sides, so as to be visible from any lateral direction. The chaptered bill can be found on the California Legislative Information website: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>

If you should have any questions, please contact our Medical Waste Management Program at (916) 449-5671.

Sincerely,

Alison Dabney, Chief
Medical Waste Management Program